

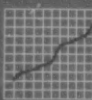
# Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 23 July 1992

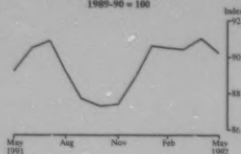


## *The week in statistics ...*

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EXPORT PRICES  
1985-90 = 100



## Export prices fall

Export prices fell by 0.9 per cent between April and May 1992, with about 30 per cent of the items in the index recording price decreases. The largest price falls were recorded for wool and cereals.

These decreases were partially offset by small price rises for about half of the index items. The only significant increases were for petroleum gases, and aluminium products.

On an annual basis, export prices rose by 1.1 per cent between May 1991 and May 1992.

EXPORT PRICES, MAY 1992

Commodity	Percentage change	
	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Vegetable products	-2.3	21.7
Wool and cotton fibres	-7.4	11.0
Prepared food stuffs	1.4	6.6
Live animals and animal products	-0.7	3.3
Machinery and appliances	0.1	3.0
Motor vehicles, aircraft and vessels	0.4	2.8
Mineral products	-0.1	-2.6
Gold, diamonds and coin	0.2	-2.6
Products of chemical or allied industries	0.0	-6.9
Base metals	2.1	-7.1
All exports	-0.9	1.1

For further information, order the publication *Export Price Index, Australia* (6405.0), or contact Peter Cordy on (06) 252 5541.

## Manufacturing prices in May

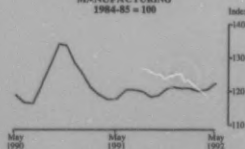
The manufacturing sector suffered a sharp increase in the cost of materials in May 1992, but price increases for its products were kept to more modest levels.

Higher oil prices featured in the rises in the indexes for both the input and output end of manufacturing.

### Materials prices up 1.6%

The price index of materials used in manufacturing industries increased by 1.6 per cent between April and May 1992. Prices of home produced materials rose by 1.8 per cent while imported materials rose by 1.1 per cent.

PRICES OF MATERIALS USED IN  
MANUFACTURING  
1984-85 = 100



The increase in home produced materials was caused mainly by higher prices for crude petroleum and milk, while that for imported materials was caused by higher prices for chemicals and chemical based materials, and crude petroleum and condensates.

Over the year to May, prices of manufacturing materials increased by 3.9 per cent, the largest annual increase since January 1991.

The table below summarises the price movements of imported and home produced materials.

PRICES OF MATERIALS USED IN MANUFACTURING, MAY 1992  
Percentage change

Source of material	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Imported	1.1	1.9
Home produced	1.8	5.0
All manufacturing	1.6	3.9

### Articles produced up 0.4%

The price index of articles produced by the manufacturing industry rose 0.4 per cent between April and May 1992.

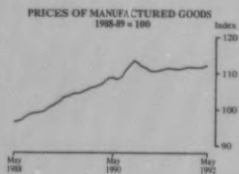
The increase was due to higher prices for about 40 per cent of the items in the index. The main contribution came from higher prices for refined petroleum products and motor vehicles.

These increases were partially offset by price falls for about a quarter of the items in the index; the main contributor was meat products.

The All Manufacturing Industry Index rose by 1.4 per cent between May 1991 and May 1992 (see table below for details).

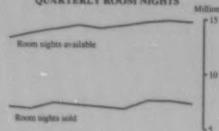
PRICES OF MANUFACTURED GOODS, MAY 1992  
Percentage change

Manufacturing sector	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Petroleum products	5.9	5.4
Food and beverages	-0.1	3.6
Transport equipment	0.7	2.6
Clothing and footwear	0.0	1.4
Fabricated metal products	-0.1	-0.1
Other industrial machinery	-0.1	-0.8
Chemicals products	0.5	-1.1
Basic metal products	0.4	-3.6
Total manufacturing	0.4	1.4



# TOURIST ACCOMMODATION Hotels, motels and guest houses

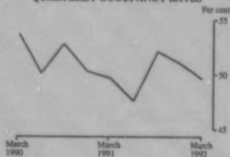
## QUARTERLY ROOM NIGHTS



## QUARTERLY TAKINGS FROM ACCOMMODATION



## QUARTERLY OCCUPANCY RATES



## Hotel and motel occupancy rates remain steady

The number of rooms available in hotels, motels and guest houses was 3.0 per cent higher in the March quarter 1992 than in the March quarter 1991. During the same time, room nights occupied increased by 4.0 per cent resulting in room occupancy rates remaining virtually unchanged at 49.6 per cent.

Rooms available in licensed hotels with facilities increased by 5.5 per cent since March quarter 1991, while room nights occupied for the same establishments increased by 12.9 per cent. This resulted in a 2.5 percentage point rise in the occupancy rate to 50.6 per cent.

Guest arrivals in licensed hotels, motels and guest houses increased by 2.7 per cent nationally, with only New South Wales and South Australia recording decreases. The average length of stay declined from 2.1 to 2.0 days.

Takings from accommodation increased by 4.8 per cent compared with the same quarter last year to \$591 million, while the average takings per room night rose from \$80 to \$81. During this same period, the Consumer Price Index increased by only 1.7 per cent.

### TOURIST ACCOMMODATION Hotels, motels and guest houses

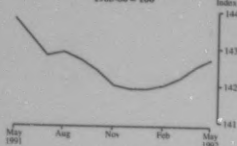
	March quarter		Percentage change
	1991	1992	
Rooms available ('000)	158	162	3.0
Room nights occupied ('000)	7,030	7,314	4.0
Room occupancy rate (%)	49.7	49.6	n.a.
Guest arrivals ('000)	6,207	6,377	2.7
Average length of stay (days)	2.1	2.0	-1.0
Takings from accommodation (\$m)	564	591	4.8

The number of holiday flats, units and houses available for short-term letting, increased by 2.4 per cent. Unit nights occupied rose by 1.7 per cent resulting in an occupancy rate drop of 1.0 percentage points to 53.1 per cent. Accommodation takings increased by 6.5 per cent compared with the same quarter last year.

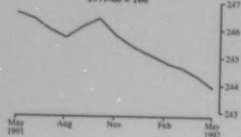
For short-term caravan parks, total capacity rose by only 0.4 per cent, site nights occupied fell by 5.5 per cent and the occupancy rate decreased by 2.2 percentage points to 30.4 per cent. Takings from accommodation decreased by 0.8 per cent.

Visitor hostels (backpacker establishments), for which collection of data has only recently commenced, recorded a bed occupancy rate of 45.7 per cent in March quarter 1992 and takings from accommodation of \$11.4 million. New South Wales (58.9%) and Queensland (46.3%) had the highest occupancy rates, with these two States accounting for more than 60 per cent of takings from this type of accommodation.

PRICES OF HOUSE BUILDING MATERIALS  
1985-86 = 100



PRICES OF NON-DWELLING BUILDING MATERIALS  
1979-80 = 100



## Building materials

Prices of materials used in house building increased 0.1 per cent between April and May 1992, continuing the trend of small monthly increases observed since February. Prices of materials used in other forms of building fell for the seventh successive month, with May 1992 recording a 0.2 per cent decrease.

In terms of annual change, prices of materials used in building remain lower than in 1991. For house building, prices in May 1992 were 0.8 per cent lower than in May 1991. Prices of materials used in other forms of building were 1.1 per cent lower over the same period.

PRICES OF BUILDING MATERIALS  
Percentage change

	House building		Other than house building	
	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Sydney	0.2	-0.1	-0.4	-0.3
Melbourne	0.1	-1.5	-0.1	-3.1
Brisbane	0.3	0.1	0.0	1.3
Adelaide	-0.1	-2.6	-0.1	-1.4
Perth	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	-1.7
Hobart	0.2	2.5	0.1	2.4
Weighted average of six State capitals	0.1	-0.8	-0.2	-1.1
Darwin	— Not available —		0.0	1.2
Canberra	0.2	1.7	0.1	0.4

For further information, order the publications *Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra (6408.0)* and *Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities (6407.0)*, or contact Peter Edmunds (06) 252 5657.

## Seasonally adjusted and trend estimates — what they mean

Non-statisticians reading of *Statistics Weekly* will no doubt have been struck by the sometimes wide divergence between movements in original time series data and those provided from seasonally adjusted and trend estimate series.

A brief explanation of why the three types of series differ follows.

Movements in the original time series may reflect a complex interaction of factors, including:

- ☐ long and medium-term changes in the item being measured (i.e. trend movements);
- ☐ short-term irregular changes;

## Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- ☐ through its bookshops
- ☐ by mail order (including subscription)
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To order any of the publications that appear in *Statistics Weekly* or to inquire about the statistics and services available from the ABS, contact Information Services at any of the offices listed below. An Information Consultancy Service in each office provides assistance of a more extensive or complex nature.

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Vic. (03) 615 7000  
Qld (07) 222 6351  
WA (09) 323 5140  
SA (08) 237 7100  
Tas. (002) 20 5800  
NT (089) 432 111

- ☐ regular seasonal influences;
- ☐ normal 'trading', 'working' or 'pay' day patterns; and
- ☐ systematic holiday effects.

It would be difficult for a non-expert user to identify the separate effect of these influences on the original data, and that is where seasonal adjustment and trend estimates come in.

Seasonal adjustment removes the effect of most of the above influences from the data, leaving only the trend and short-term irregular movements.

Trend estimates are then obtained by removing the effects of the short-term irregularities, which in many series can be a major contributor to movements in the original data. Sometimes that data may be so erratic that reliable trend estimates cannot be provided for the current month.

By comparing the historical trend series with the seasonally adjusted series, the user can identify the short-term irregularities which have influenced the original series.

*For further information about the seasonal adjustment of statistical time series and the interpretation (or derivation) of trend estimates, contact the Chief Consultant, Time Series Analysis, on (06) 252 6103.*

## All the week's releases: 15 to 21 July

### General

Publications Advice, 17 July 1992 (1105.0; free — over the counter)  
Publications Advice, 21 July 1992 (1105.0; free — over the counter)  
Monthly Summary of Statistics, Aust., July 1992 (1304.0; \$20.00)  
Statistics Weekly, 16 July 1992 (1318.0; \$4.20)  
Economic Indicators, Qld, July 1992 (1307.3; \$6.50)  
Northern Territory Business Indicators, July 1992 (1307.7; \$5.00)

### Social statistics

Child Care, Aust., November 1990 (4402.0; \$25.00)  
Summary of Social Statistics, Qld, 1991 (4101.3; \$14.50)

### National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Foreign Trade, Aust.: Merchandise Exports, May 1992 (5432.0; \$9.50)

### Labour statistics and prices

The Labour Force, Aust., 1978-89 (6204.0; \$40.00)  
Industrial Disputes, Aust., April 1992 (6321.0; \$10.50)  
Major Labour Costs, Aust., 1990-91 (6348.0; \$19.00)  
Export Price Index, Aust., May 1992 (6405.0; \$8.00)  
Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, May 1992 (6407.0; \$10.50)  
Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, May 1992 (6408.0; \$8.00)  
Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Aust., May 1992 (6411.0; \$10.50)  
Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Aust., May 1992 (6412.0; \$10.50)  
The Labour Force, NSW, May 1992 (6201.1; \$16.00)

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### Suggestions

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

Rad Leovic  
Editor  
*Statistics Weekly*  
(06) 252 6104

### Agriculture

Livestock Products — Meat, Qld, May 1992 (7204.3; \$5.00)

### Secondary industry and distribution

Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Metal Products, May 1992 (8367.0; \$6.00)

Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Energy Products, May 1992 (8368.0; \$6.00)

Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Wood and Wood Products, May 1992 (8369.0; \$6.00)

Sales of Australian Wine and Brandy by Winemakers, May 1992 (8504.0; \$10.50)

Construction Activity at Constant Prices, Aust., March Qtr 1992 (8782.0; \$10.50)

### Transport

Motor Vehicle Registrations, Aust., May 1992 (9303.0; \$10.50)

## Calendar of key releases

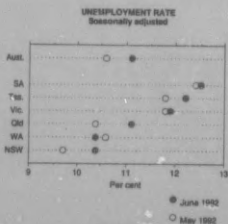
Expected releases over the fortnight to 4 August 1992

### July

- 23** Import Price Index, Australia, May 1992 (6414.0; \$8.00)
- 27** Manufacturing Production, Australia, June 1992, Preliminary (8301.0; \$10.50)
- Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, June 1992, Preliminary (9301.0; \$10.50)
- 29** Consumer Price Index, June Quarter 1992 (6401.0; \$11.50)
- 30** Balance of Payments, Australia, June 1992 (5301.0; \$16.00)
- Building Approvals, Australia, June 1992 (8731.0; \$13.00)

## The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to 21 July 1992



Statistics Weekly  
23 July 1992

	NSW	Vic.	Qld.	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (Mar. qtr 92)*	-33.1	-21.8	-18.4	-24.7	-1.5	5.7	n.a.	n.a.	-22.8
Retail turnover (May 92) (trend estimate)	6.6	4.7	9.4	0.1	10.1	5.0	n.a.	8.7	6.5
New motor vehicle registrations (May 92)†	-6.3	-6.5	20.0	-4.3	19.9	-6.6	-2.4	-27.0	0.2
Number of dwelling unit approvals (May 92)†	9.9	10.8	37.2	-11.5	40.6	-16.7	0.0	1.7	18.5
Value of total building work done (Dec. qtr 91)	-22.0	-15.8	9.3	-23.5	-14.6	26.9	-3.6	7.3	-13.3
Employed persons (June 92)*	-0.6	-0.4	1.3	-2.8	2.1	-2.2	-0.2	-1.0	-0.2
Capital city consumer price index (Mar. qtr 92)	1.2	2.1	1.7	2.6	0.9	2.1	2.1	2.6	1.7
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (Feb. 92)	5.5	3.4	3.2	5.3	5.1	3.2	5.7	5.3	4.4
Population (June 91)	1.3	1.1	2.2	1.2	2.0	0.9	1.0	2.9	1.5
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc. (Mar. qtr 92)	1.7	4.4	8.0	0.5	5.1	-0.7	14.6	2.4	4.0

\* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas., NT and ACT.

## Key national indicators – consolidated to 21 July 1992

		Period	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
<b>National production</b>						
Gross domestic product (A) — 1984-85 prices	\$m	Mar. qtr 92	n.a.	64,762	0.6	0.8
<b>Industrial activity</b>						
New capital expenditure — current prices	\$m	Mar. qtr 92	4,944	5,565	-2.7	-21.3
— 1984-85 prices			3,898	4,386	-2.3	-18.0
Expected new capital expenditure	"	Three months to June 92	6,727	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Retail turnover — current prices	"	May 92	7,835	8,017	-0.3	6.7
— 1984-85 prices	"	Mar. qtr 92	14,735	15,531	1.1	2.1
New motor vehicle registrations	no.	May 92	42,269	41,125	-3.8	0.2
Dwelling unit approvals		May 92	13,883	13,307	-4.5	18.5
Value of all building approvals	\$m		1,933	1,702	-5.0	0.0
Value of total building work done — current prices	"	Mar. qtr 92	5,278.8	5,739.3	-0.1	-13.3
— 1984-85 prices	"	"	3,432.4	3,731.8	0.7	-10.8
Manufacturers' sales — current prices	"	Mar. qtr 92	32,884	35,130	1.8	0.6
— 1984-85 prices	"	"	22,814	24,284	1.1	-1.3
Expected manufacturers' sales	"	Three months to June 92	35,070	n.a.	n.a.	-2.0
<b>Labour</b>						
Employed persons	'000	June 92	7,701.4	7,691.3	0.4	-0.2
Unemployment rate †	%	"	10.6	11.1	0.6	1.7
Participation rate †	"	"	62.9	63.2	0.6	0.1
Job vacancies	'000	May 92	24.3	24.8	-6.9	-3.4
Average weekly overtime per employee	hours	"	1.09	1.10	-1.5	-1.7
<b>Prices, profits and wages</b>						
Consumer price index	1989-90 = 100.0	Mar. qtr 92	107.6	n.a.	0.0	1.7
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries	1984-85 = 100.0	May 92	122.4	n.a.	1.6	3.9
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1988-89 = 100.0	May 92	112.3	n.a.	0.4	1.4
Company profits before income tax	\$m	Mar. qtr 92	2,779	3,469	12.8	37.7
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time)	\$	Feb. 92	589.20	n.a.	1.8	4.4
<b>Interest rates (b) (monthly average)</b>						
90-day bank bills †	% per annum	June 92	6.40	n.a.	-0.10	-4.10
10-year Treasury bonds †			8.90	n.a.	-0.20	-2.25
<b>Balance of payments</b>						
Exports of merchandise	\$m	May 92	4,887	4,536	-4.5	0.5
Imports of merchandise	"	"	4,211	4,386	1.3	12.7
Balance on merchandise trade (c)	"	"	676	150	-64.6	-75.9
Balance of goods and services (c)	"	"	471	-39	n.a.	n.a.
Balance on current account (c)	"	"	-650	-1,131	-19.8	-20.3
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0	Mar. qtr 92	n.a.	100.5	2.8	0.7
<b>Foreign investment</b>						
Net foreign debt	\$m	31 Mar. 92	148,124	n.a.	2.4	7.6
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	199,312	n.a.	3.4	10.9
<b>Exchange rates (monthly average)</b>						
US\$	per \$A	May 92	0.7563	n.a.	-0.8	-2.4
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0		57.1	n.a.	-1.9	-3.9
<b>Other indicators</b>						
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million	Dec. 91	17.4	n.a.	0.3	1.4
Overseas visitor arrivals	'000	Apr. 92	204	219	6.2	19.7

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 6).

Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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